

Prepared Seedbed
Calendar for Winter Pasture Establishment
Clint Perkins CEA Ag/NR
Smith County
March 2018

September	Lime soil if less than pH 6. Remove weeds and grass by shredding, burning, grazing, or bale for hay
September 20-October 10	Disk 3 to 4 inches deep; if heavy sod or large amounts of trash, additional disking may be necessary. Large amounts of trash will prevent good soil contact with the seed If there is no soil test or if soil analysis indicates phosphorus is below medium level, use 400 lbs/acre of 13-13-13. Add 75-100 lbs/acre of cereal rye and an additional 15-20 lbs/acre of ryegrass in the fertilizer. Spread fertilizer by using the $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ rule. In the above case, 400 lbs of fertilizer plus 100 lbs of seed or 500 lbs of material. Set the fertilizer distributor at $\frac{1}{2}$ rate or 250 lbs. Go over the field again by splitting the original tracks. Disk the ground at 4 inches in depth to cover the seed. This will get the seed about 2 inches deep in the soil. DO NOT DISK TOO DEEP!!!! Roll and pack the seedbed. Cultipackers are the best, soil roller will work if cultipacker is not available, drag with crosstie but firm the seedbed.
When Rye has 5 leaves	Apply 300 lbs/acre of 21-0-21
When rye is 7 to 10 inches tall and well rooted	Begin limited grazing; 2 hours per day for cows; 4 hours per day for heifers/steers
December 26- January 7	Apply fertilizer plus ryegrass; Ex. 300 lbs of 21-0-21 and 15-20 lbs of ryegrass using the $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ rule

Do's and Don'ts for Grazing

- Do not overgraze; always maintain a good green color
- Do not graze with a heavy frost cover
- Do not graze when soil is wet and will track until after hard freeze dates (late February or Early March)
- Increase grazing pressure when Rye begins to boot
 - Graze hours in the A.M. and 3 hours in the P.M. for cows
 - Graze heifers/ steers hours as pasture allows
 - Graze dry cows if needed to get rye down
- Do not let rye get too tall and go to seed